



From the Editor

First off, my apologies for my delinquency in getting this issue of The Bark published. The last month and a half, I've been simply overwhelmed with a variety of projects. The March issue was going to be pretty skimpy as it was, so I decided to combine it with the April issue. Then I lost my momentum and it was too easy to put my editorial duties on the back shelf for a few weeks. I'll try to do better from now on.

FIELD DAY 2014 - Coming up on June 28th and 29th. That is only about 2 months away, so we need to be getting ready. It was the consensus of the Club leadership that the event be held again at the clubhouse this year. First, this venue will give those who couldn't make it to last year's Field Day a chance to operate from a familiar environment,. Secondly, it will give us an opportunity to test solutions that have been implemented to solve problems discovered last year.

Coming up on May 10, 2014 is AAFDCM/ARCT. "What the heck is that, Mike?", they ask quizzically. Well, that is the Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Radio Test. It's a lot of fun and gives you the opportunity to make some interesting and unique contacts. Member Bob K7MXE has participated in it many times over the past years, and invites all members to join in the fun. See the flyer on Page 10 of this issue detailing the event.

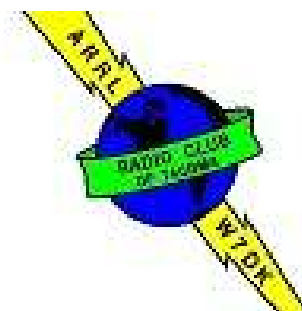
Fourth Wednesday workshops seem to have been a hit with everyone. Participation has been great from an audience standpoint, and the quality of instruction and topics has been superb. The April session has been set aside for Field Day planning.

HELP WANTED - The Radio Club of Tacoma is still in need of two volunteers.. We need a program manager to coordinate the entertainment portion of each monthly meeting held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, usually at the Pierce County Library facility. We also need someone to handle refreshments for each of those meetings. Taking time to make coffee and bringiin a couple packages of cookies or other snacks would be a valued contribution to the well-being of the club members.

That's all folks - 73 de Mike W7MWF

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**Board of Directors Meeting
5 February 2014**

The 5 February 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AC7LJ
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Jim Mendenhall KE4WHN
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

There were 14 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Quorum: Yes

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 1 January 2014 Board Meeting as coordinated was made, seconded and passed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
QEX Journal
Electric Radio
Memberships
QSL cards
Crawford Mountain DNR Lease invoice
Electric Radio renewal
Annual State Corporation Report due

TREASURER'S REPORT: AD7LJ

Bob presented the January financial reports.

A copy of the financial reports are attached to the original copy of these minutes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

Membership renewals are underway; thus far about a third of our 300 members have renewed their memberships

Training: Next Technician Class February 8/9

Information Technology:– Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an Information Technology report which included:

- A reminder that Microsoft XP support is ending, and the Clubs EMCOM, Museum, Classroom and Laptop computers are still using the XP operating system. Even though Microsoft has elected to continue antimalware signatures through 14 July 2014, we need to decide on a course of action.
- We are still in need of a PCIe video card for the Classroom computer, which may become more important as we field more Wednesday Workshop presentations in the Classroom

Discussion: After considerable discussion of potential options, Randy was asked to prepare a possible transition and anticipated budget to move away from our XP bound machines.

HF Operations:

Bruce W7EP described the observable damage to the rotor, and possible options for its repair. The condition of the bell housing has not been determined.

Gary WG7X suggested we consider "Norm's" rotor repair which has a good reputation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the rotor repair through a professional service.

Following the motion issues of cost, acquiring a back-up rotor and related areas were discussed

The President tasked Bruce WE7P to explore the options and related costs to engage a professional rotor repair service, and report back to the Board at the next regular Board meeting.

Workshop Project

A consolidated topic area survey was included January 2014 membership renewal mailing seeking additional feedback and verification of the topic list

For the February 26th Workshop session, we plan to repeat the January 22nd workshops to afford those who wished to attend both sessions an opportunity to do so.

Gary WG7X will provide an orientation to the Club's HF Station.

Stan Nelson K7DKK will reprise the Orientation to Amateur Radio Repeaters/

RCT Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational

Museum: Rich KR7W

Rich reported that planning is underway to design and install a display area in the museum to better display some of our antique equipment.

Facilities Management:

Rich KR7W reports the Museum electric heater has failed and he estimates the cost to repair at \$ 50.00

Property Management:

Recent Tower and Antenna Donation offer.

No official report; however Larry KD4VOM reported that Frank AC7JY has contacted the owner of the tower offered to the Club, and advised them that the Club regrets it could not accept the offer due to potential liability issues.

There was a question about how well the "Last Saturday Swapmeet" did. The Treasure's report indicates sales of over \$700.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BARK Newsletter Mailings:

John Clarke AC7WW who manages the BARK mailing process has suggested the Club reconsider ending the BARK mailings. The cost of mailing continues to rise and the number of members has dwindled to 18.

The Secretary proposes to draft a letter to be distributed with mailed BARKS to advise the recipients that the Board, due to dwindling numbers, increased cost and readily available website copies, has regrettably elected to end the BARK mailing program.

Copies will be made available at the regular General Membership meetings and at the Clubhouse, and possibly emailed as attachments to those who might benefit from that method.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Field Day::

Mike Elwell W7GHW is heading up this year's Field Day event, which will be at the Clubhouse again. Mike is seeking station managers and others to support this year's operations. He is also looking for someone to manage the Get On The Air station...

Picnic: Paul Matney KF7PFU is heading up the Picnic and Field Day kitchen operations...

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Straight Key Night

FYBO Freeze Your Buns Off

Mike W7MWF reported on the February 1st Freeze Your Buns Off and hidden transmitter hunt Winter Field Day event.

Mike reports there were about 23 QSO's and over 20 members and visitors attended the event. There is complete coverage and photos in the February BARK.

Bob K7MXE set up the hidden transmitter event, and reports that Joe Lester K7ZG took away first prize.

Mike and Key Hamfest 8 March at the Puyallup Fairgrounds

Communications Academy 22/23 March at the South Seattle Community College

SEAPAC ARRL Convention, 6-8 June, Seaside Oregon

ADJOURNED

General Meeting Notes**12 February 2014**

The 12 February 2014 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Jim Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 32 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed. Paul Matney KF7PFU sports a new General Class Call... Congratulations.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Mike W7XTZ reports Dick Giguere W1UG is recovering well from recent bypass surgery. Larry KD4VOM reports that Jack Hegseth K7DBU has suffered some physical issues, no detailed information available

Correspondence:

Newsletters
Utility Bills
Salmon Run Pledges
QSL Cards
Bank Statements
Insurance Invoices
(Property/Equipment)
Membership Renewals
Workshop Surveys

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Renewals are coming along nicely, with about a third of our membership responding so far. Remember the renewal grace period ends 31

March and any renewals after that date will not appear in the Club Membership Roster Booklet...

Training: The next Technician's class will be held on March 8/9

VE REPORT: John Clarke AC7WW

The regular monthly VE testing session was at the club house of the Radio Club of Tacoma Tuesday January 14, 2014. Fifteen candidates were served, with 26 elements graded. Nine new Technician class amateurs were added to the Amateur Service, one candidate passed element 2 and 3 to become a General class Amateur. One candidate upgraded to Extra class. Three candidates failed to obtain an initial license and one candidate failed to upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Joe, W7RQ Leonard, KA7NWF

Jan, K7HTU Jon, AD7AW

Joe, K7ZG Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday February 11, 2014.

HF Station:

The Club HF Stations main beam antenna rotor has failed and been removed from service for repair.

Facilities:

A couple of weeks ago someone through a rock through the upper center bay window in the clubhouse. Bruce WE7P had had the window repaired.

PROGRAM:

Ham Nation Podcast: The History of Single Sideband
Technical difficulties precluded the showing of this Ham Nation Video, program held until the next meeting.

It was noted that Frank AC7LJ, after several years of yeoman service, has retired from the task of coordinating club meeting programs. We are looking for someone to insure our popular meeting programs keep coming. Please contact any of the Board officers

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FYBO: Mike Finnie W7MWF reported on this year's successful "Winter Field Day" which included the FYBO event and a coordinated hidden transformer hunt.

Around 20 club members and visitors signed in even though there were likely others who missed the sign in roster. Several stations were active on voice an CW. Mike and Randy's records indicate we scored well in the contest.

Bob Heselberg K7MXE set up the hidden transmitters and Joe Lester K7ZG was the first to find them.

For a well done and more complete story, *check the February BARK which is currently available on the W7DK.org website*

RCT Membership Meetings:

The Club has revised the second monthly membership (fourth Wednesday) meeting to conduct Wednesday evening workshops at the Clubhouse.

On February 26th a reprise of the January 22nd Workshop set will be presented to accommodate those who wished to attend both sessions

Gary McAdams WG7X will be presenting an orientation to the Club's HF System, while Stan Nelson K7DKK will present an overview of Repeaters, what are they and why do we care.

Mike and Key:

An Information Table has been reserved, Bob Purdom AD7LJ has volunteered to set the table up. Club members are encouraged to stop by and cover our table while there.

Field Day:

Mike Elwell W7GHW has stepped up to manage Field Day. He'll need your full cooperation and skills to make it happen. Station Managers and more are needed. Please contact Mike.

Picnic:

Paul Matney KF7PFU will head up the team to prepare and manage this year's Kirkreit Picnic

Meeting Refreshments: Mike W7XTZ has retired from the task of providing refreshments for our general membership meetings. Leonard KA7NWF has agreed to bring the coffee pots and gear to the meetings, but if we are to have coffee and snacks, we need someone to arrange for the coffee, snacks and setup. If interested contact Mike W7XTZ, or one of the Club Officers

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Communications Academy: Coming up March 22nd at the South Seattle Community College. 2 day event with multiple seminar sessions, Can be found through Google Search.

SEAPAC ARRL Convention: This annual convention is held at Seaside Oregon and this year on June 6 through 8.

SHOW AND TELL: None Reported

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: Discussions included: Amsterdam Island DX operation recently closed, and the enormous cost of fielding these rare DX sites, ARRL's 100th Anniversary including the W1AW on air sessions.

DOOR PRIZES: None

RAFFLE PRIZE: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Board of Directors Meeting 5 March 2014 Minutes

The 5 March 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

There were 10 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ.

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 5 February 2014 Board Meeting as coordinated was made, seconded and passed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Al Burleson K7HW has suffered a broken bone in his leg, and Paul WB6MRI is scheduled for exploratory surgery. Harry Adams W7HSA has suffered an infection and has been hospitalized.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Workshop Survey responses
QEX Journal
Electric Radio
Memberships
Insurance Policy invoices

TREASURER'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

Membership renewals are underway; thus far, not counting Lifetime and Honorary, about 200 members have renewed their memberships

Training: Next Technician Class March 8/9

Information Technology:– Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an Information Technology report which included:

- A bill of materials for possible acquisition of additional equipment to replace aging and XP OS equipment.
- Reported an offer of a donation of two 32 bit and two 64 bit Windows 7 Retail MS OS software from AD7BK David Schattilly. Randy has responded accepting the donation, but thus far no response
- Randy reported on recent work to making some of the Club's digital library available via the Clubhouse's NAS
- The Club's Gateway Solo 1450 laptop battery has completely failed, and although capable of operating using its power charger, it is an XP OS machine and should be retired. The next use of a laptop would likely be in September and the Club would benefit from a replacement donation.

- Randy's report includes full detail on the Bill of Materials and a description of the parts and costs.

A copy of the IT report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

HF Operations:

The Club's Beam Antenna Rotor: Bruce W7EP

Bruce advises that the rotor has been repaired by Bob Abernathy W7BA and should be returned to service soon.

HF Room Patch Panel Project: Al N7OMS noted that several have offered the needed connectors, but we don't have enough.

The Board asked Al to provide, at the next Board meeting, a list and cost to purchase the required connectors at

RCT Repeater Status:

Nick K7MO reported on recent noise on the 147.28 repeater.

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management:

Larry KD4VOM reported an offer from Mike Buettner K7STO to replace the Clubhouse back door with a larger size door to better accommodate the handicapped. Mike's offer would be to provide the labor and the Club would purchase the materials. A copy of Mike's proposal and options was circulated.

The proposal included three metal 3 foot door styles and a lockset and handicapped handle.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize up to \$ 500.00 for this project.

During the discussion the Board agreed that a key pad similar to the one on the front door should be installed.

A copy of Mike K7STO's back door replacement proposal is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Property Management:**Bill Rohrer W7IJ (SK) Donation**

Nick K7MO noted that several items from Bill's collection have been donated to the Club.

Workshop Project

The February 26th Workshop session, repeated the January 22nd workshops to afford those who wished to attend both sessions an opportunity to do so. Stan K7DKK presented the Repeater Orientation, while Bruce WE7P provided the Club HF Station Orientation. Both sessions were well attended.

Mike W7MWF has developed a spreadsheet indicating the relative interest against the Survey topics.

Next step is to solicit presenter support. An email will be sent to those who may be interested in making topic presentations.

Museum: Rich KR7W

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**BARK Newsletter Mailings:**

John Clarke AC7WW who manages the BARK mailing process has suggested the Club reconsider ending the BARK mailings. The cost of mailing continues to rise and the number of members has dwindled to 18.

The Secretary prepared a letter to current BARK by mail recipients to advise the recipients that the Board, due to dwindling numbers, increased cost and readily available website copies, has regrettably elected to end the BARK mailing program. This letter will be sent with the next mailing of the BARK. *A copy of the letter is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

In an effort to assist members who cannot reach the BARK through the internet, copies will be made available at the regular General Membership meetings and at the Clubhouse, and possibly emailed as attachments to those who might benefit from that method.

NEW BUSINESS:**Membership Chairman: Larry KD4VOM**

Larry announced that Charles Salisbury K7GRS has agreed to accept the Membership Chairmanship.

Charles, Randy, Mike and Larry have been working on the transition which will likely occur following the publication of this year's annual Membership Roster Book in early April. In the meantime work is underway to migrate the membership excel database (which is cumbersome and error prone) to a relational database, in our case, Microsoft Access.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:**Meeting Program Coordinator:**

Larry KD4VOM reminded the Board that Frank AC7JY has retired from the task of providing programs for the General Membership Meetings, and we need to find someone to take over this important task.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mike and Key Hamfest 8 March at the Puyallup Fairgrounds

Communications Academy 22/23 March at the South Seattle Community College

SEAPAC ARRL Convention, 6-8 June, Seaside Oregon

The meeting was adjourned at 20:08



**General Meeting Notes
12 March 2014**

The 12 March General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street.

President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 21 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed. Visitor Mike KF7VBF from Olympia was welcomed

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Larry KD4VOM reports that Harry W7HSA was hospitalized for an infection and is recovering. Al K7HW is recovering from a broken leg bone, and Paul WB6MRI is scheduled for exploratory surgery. John AC7WW has also been hospitalized.

Correspondence:

Newsletters
Utility Bills
Bank Statements
Membership Renewals
Workshop Surveys

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

W7DK

**Proudly celebrating 97
years of service to
Amateur Radio in the
Pacific Northwest**



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Renewals are coming along nicely, with around 200 of our normal 300 members renewed. Remember the renewal grace period ends 31 March. Any renewals after that date will not appear in the Club Membership Roster Booklet...

VE REPORT: No Report

The regular monthly VE testing session was at the club house of the Radio Club of Tacoma Tuesday March 14, 2014. The session was managed by Stephen AD7AB in the absence of John AC7WW due to illness.

HF Station:

The Club HF Stations main beam antenna rotor has been repaired and will be returned to service soon.

Facilities:

Mike Buettner K7STO has submitted a proposal to replace the back door with a wider metal one. His proposal is to provide the labor and the club the materials. The proposal was approved at the March Board meeting.

PROGRAM:

Ham Nation Podcast: The History of Single Sideband.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Special Antenna Modeling Presentation

On March 15, the RCT Saturday Open House will host a presentation on **Antenna Modeling** by Pat Wintheiser W0OPW, author of NEC2GO antenna modeling software (nec2go.com) for Windows computers. The seminar will begin at **10:30am**. Everyone with an interest in antenna modeling is encouraged to attend, but no previous experience using antenna modeling software is required.

Pat W0OPW was a resident of our area in the 1990's while working for Boeing. He used to hang out with the Whiskey Group on 75 meters and has visited our Clubhouse before. On his QRZ.com page, you'll see that one of the Club's elder statesmen, Worth W7WG, appears in a photo. Pat retired from Boeing in 1999 and moved back to Minnesota, where he took up the development of his antenna modeling software. He came to town for the Mike & Key hamfest, and we have this opportunity to hear from him before he returns to his home QTH.

RCT Membership Meetings:

The Club has revised the second monthly membership (fourth Wednesday) meeting to conduct Wednesday evening workshops at the Clubhouse.

On February 26th a reprise of the January 22nd Workshop set was presented to accommodate those who wished to attend both sessions

Bruce WE7P presented the orientation to the Club's HF System, while Stan Nelson K7DKK repeated his overview of Repeaters, what are they and why do we care.

March 26th, Gary WG7X will conduct a hands on session to learn to operate the Club's HF Station.

Mike and Key:

Bob Purdom AD7LJ coordinated and managed the Club's information table at the Hamfest. Thanks to Bob AD7LJ, Greta KF7KSW, Bob N7NCP, Steve AD7VL, and others who helped cover the table for the Club.

Field Day:

Mike Elwell W7GHW has stepped up to manage Field Day. He'll need your full cooperation and skills to make it happen. Station Managers and more are needed. Please contact Mike.

Meeting Refreshments:

Mike W7XTZ has retired from the task of providing refreshments for our general membership meetings. Leonard KA7NWF has agreed to bring the coffee pots and gear to the meetings, but if we are to have coffee and snacks, we need someone to arrange for the coffee, snacks and setup. If interested contact Mike W7XTZ, or one of the Club Officers

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Communications Academy: Coming up March 22nd at the South Seattle Community College. This is a 2 day event with multiple seminar sessions. Information can be found through Google Search.

SEAPAC ARRL Convention:

This annual convention is held at Seaside Oregon and this year on June 6 through 8.

SHOW AND TELL: None Reported

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

DOOR PRIZES: None

RAFFLE PRIZE: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm



The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations...

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader

**ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND
MILITARY/AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST
(10 MAY 2014)**

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 64th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 17, 2014, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 10 May 2014 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (16-18 May 2014), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice and Morse Code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

PART I. MILITARY-TO-AMATEUR CROSS BAND SSB & CW TEST CONTACTS. Military-to-Amateur cross band operations will take place on the dates/times in ZULU (UTC), and frequencies listed below for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the Amateur bands indicated below. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The following stations will be transmitting on MARS frequencies listed below which are provided as "Window/Dial Frequency" in kHz. Some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse Code.

For information regarding frequencies and operating times, visit the MARS website at <http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>



FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.

*A tip of the ol' baseball cap to Dan for providing a little bit of
April Fools Day entertainment to get our blood pumping.*



In this issue of The Bark we are we're going to take a look at the old and new QSL cards used by the Doc Spike W7OS museum. After nearly a decade of using the old card, the new card was implemented on Straight Key Night held New Year's Eve at the clubhouse. Thanks to all who contributed artwork and \$\$.

All club members are invited and encouraged to contribute cards, photos, stories, opinions, observations, or other tidbits for publication in The Bark. Either email them to me as a jpg file, or bring them by the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll scan them. For textual contributions, MSWord, PDF, RTF or plain text files are suitable.



W7OS

Clifford J "Doc Spike" Antique Radiomuseum
Located at the Radio Club of Tacoma

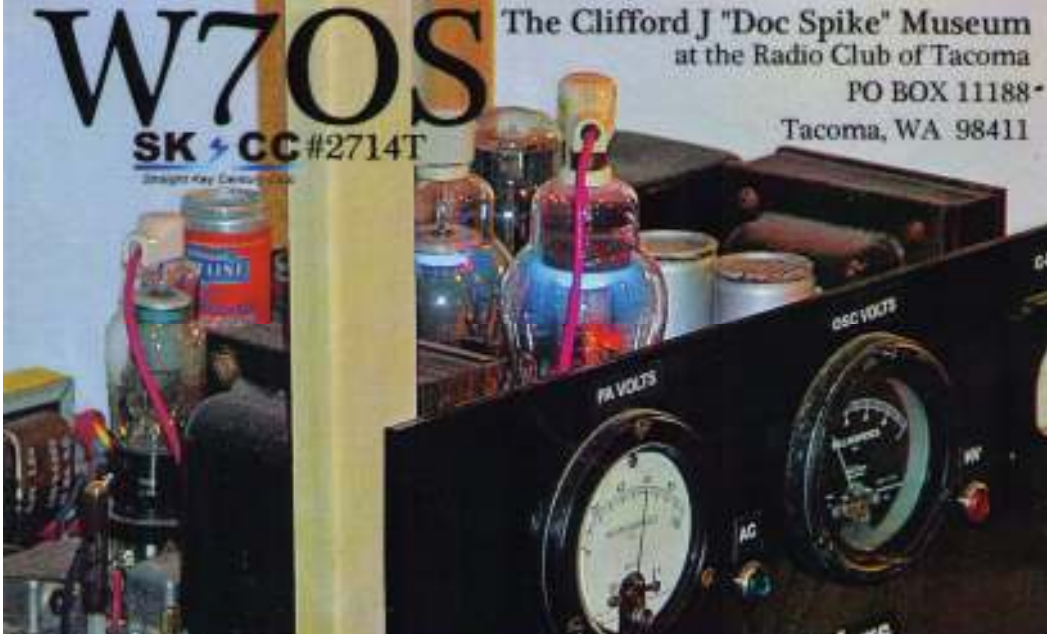
AI QSO With:		
Date	UTC	~7050 KC
UR RST: UR OP:		
<i>Our Rig: 3 stage breadboard</i>		
XMTR: 211 Final, 450V@45ma		
Homebrew appx year: 1938		
RCVR: Hammarlund HQ120X		
Ant: 120 ft Ironwire Doublet		
Keys: Bug es SK of unknown orig.		
Vy 73s...		

See our website: www.w7dk.org/w7os

W7OS

SK + CC #2714T
Straight Key Century Club

The Clifford J "Doc Spike" Museum
at the Radio Club of Tacoma
PO BOX 11188 -
Tacoma, WA 98411





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis email to w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj@w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



Upcoming RCT Events

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .